

PROGRESS

*Address of the President of the Academy**

HAROLD BROWN KEYES

FELLOWS of the Academy! I offered to you last year an annual report which I called *Prologue* because I hoped it would be a prologue to a year in which The New York Academy of Medicine continued to advance the science and the art of medicine, continued to maintain a public medical library, and continued to promote public health and medical education. Those are the goals of the Academy as stated in its Constitution. I am happy to report to you that the Academy has indeed done the things it should have done.

The Academy continues to fulfill its purpose because of the careful and thoughtful guidance of its Trustees and Council; because of the devotion of its Fellows who serve on its many committees; because of the help which is given to those Committees by the Executive Secretaries and the Librarian and their staffs; and because of the guidance of the Director of the Academy, Dr. Howard Reid Craig, whose broad grasp of the affairs of the Academy and fine working relations with the Committees have given the Academy unity and steady purpose.

I would like to place before you a brief review of the activities of the various Committees and divisions of the Academy.

THE LIBRARY

The Library was founded in 1847 with a gift of three books. Today it is the second largest medical library in the United States, surpassed only by the National Library of Medicine. That it may be surpassed in size by the combination of the Boston Medical Library and the Harvard Medical Library does not diminish our pride in it nor our sense of responsibility for it. That responsibility fell this year upon the Committee on Library under the chairmanship of Dr. Bronson S. Ray and upon the Librarian, Miss Gertrude Annan, who solved many

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problems and brought many problems for the future to our attention.

A comparison of some statistics for 1963 with those of 1956 is of interest. In that period the number of readers increased by 20 per cent; the number of interlibrary loans increased by 35 per cent; and the amount of photoduplication increased by nearly 300 per cent. During 1963 there were added to the library 6,853 bound volumes and 2,139 pamphlets, bringing the library holdings to 339,303 bound volumes and 160,401 pamphlets. The library now receives over 4,000 serial publications annually. Not only did the library add many books to its collection, it also published several books through a cooperative arrangement between the Library Publication Committee and the Hafner Publishing Company. This arrangement has led to the publication of eleven classics of medical history in paperback format.

The Medical Library Center of New York has now opened in its own building at 5 East 102nd Street. This Center, under the direction of Mr. Erich Meyerhoff, will serve as a depository for less-used material from medical libraries in New York and will coordinate certain of their activities. It has developed in close association with the Academy and we welcome it to the family of medical libraries of New York. Miss Annan and Mr. Meyerhoff are also the responsible investigators administering a grant of \$72,000 from the Health Research Council of the City of New York. This grant finances a study of the adequacy and utilization of medical library resources in New York. It will also investigate the recommendations made by Mr. Ralph Esterquest which I detailed to you last year. The study is under the immediate direction of Mr. Lee Ash.

Our financial responsibility for this great library is not a small one and has not lessened. Periodicals appear in ever greater number; they cost more; and some of them charge libraries more for subscriptions than they charge individuals. Computers and other mechanical devices are increasingly important in library work: it is costly even to explore their possible usefulness, much more costly to obtain them. New methods are now available to preserve old paper; they too are costly. Finally, structural changes in the Library may be needed fairly soon. The Friends of the Rare Book Room have done a magnificent job in helping with the purchase of rare books for our remarkable collection. The Fellows can also help the library by gifts of current periodicals, especially those which are relatively unusual.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

This long-established and famous Standing Committee of the Academy functioned during 1963 under the guidance of its Chairman, Dr. Frederick R. Bailey and its Executive Secretary, Dr. Harry D. Kruse. Its report on "The Importance of Clinical Testing in Determining the Efficacy and Safety of Drugs" which appeared in 1962 has continued to exert a great influence; it has repeatedly been referred to and cited by Federal agencies and by the Congress. The committee released a major report on Narcotics (*Bulletin* of The New York Academy of Medicine, July, 1963); this report will undoubtedly play a role equal in importance to that of the report on drug safety. A report on pornography ("A Statement on Salacious Literature", *Bulletin* of the New York Academy of Medicine, August, 1963) also has attracted widespread attention. The committee actively and effectively supported the fluoridation of the water supply of New York City, and bills authorizing such fluoridation have been passed by the city. A report on proposals for federal regulation of animal experimentation will soon be published in the Academy *Bulletin*.^{*} The recommendations of the committee in support of a blood center for New York City have been realized. The committee has continued its studies of air pollution, alcoholism, and tuberculosis.

I have attended many meetings of this committee and I have been deeply impressed by the time and thought which its members give to the problems before them and by the scholarly quality of their reports. An important contribution to the committee during the last 16 years has come from the services of Miss Lois Stice; Miss Stice retired in May, 1963, to marry Dr. Clarence Dickinson. Mrs. Dickinson has been succeeded in her position at the Academy by Mr. Lewis J. Amster. I would like to extend our thanks and best wishes to Mrs. Dickinson and I would like to welcome Mr. Amster to the Academy.

COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

This committee has been under the chairmanship of Dr. James E. McCormack during 1963 and Dr. Aims C. McGuinness has continued to serve as its Executive Secretary. Much of its energy this year has been given to its pioneer work in presenting postgraduate medical seminars over television. A regular weekly series of telecasts was pro-

^{*} Published in March 1964.

duced from January 8 through May 5; during the summer some of the telecasts were rebroadcast; and on September 10, a new series of weekly telecasts was begun. This activity has been generously supported by foundations and a study of its educational effectiveness is being supported by the United States Public Health Service. The committee has been fortunate in obtaining cooperation from distinguished speakers in producing these programs; and I would like to express our thanks to station WNYC-TV for providing prime evening time for the telecasts.

The committee has again conducted its course on Emotional and Psychiatric Problems. The success of this course is shown by a very marked increase in enrollment this year. The committee is also actively considering the problems related to interesting high-school students in medicine as a career; in the question of continuation education in hospitals; and in the question of including instruction in economics in medical education.

COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL STUDIES

This committee is under the chairmanship of Dr. Norton S. Brown, and Mr. Harry J. Becker has completed his first full year as its Executive Secretary. The committee has once again arranged an excellent series of Lectures to the Laity; it is also investigating the possibility of televising these lectures in the future. Mr. Becker also has prepared a useful summary of the proposals embodied in the King-Anderson bill; this summary was published in the *Academy Bulletin* in June, 1963.

During 1963 the committee laid the groundwork for a very important study which will be conducted during 1964: a series of seminars on social and economic aspects of medical care. This study is being supported by a grant from the Ford Foundation. At least eight seminars will be held; each seminar will be based on a working paper by a distinguished authority in the field to be discussed. This study has attracted widespread interest and promises to be an activity of major importance.

THE BULLETIN AND THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

The editorial board of the *Bulletin* is under the chairmanship of Dr. Charles E. Kossmann. The Committee on Publications and Medical Information is headed by Dr. Locke Mackenzie. Dr. Paul Craneheld is

Editor of the *Bulletin* and Executive Secretary of the Committee on Medical Information. The *Bulletin* serves as the official journal of the Academy. It publishes material of scientific and scholarly interest which originates from meetings held at the Academy. It also publishes articles and reports which originate from the activities of the Standing Committees of the Academy. The Committee on Publications and Medical Information is responsible for the Grey Folder, for the Academy News and Notes, and for advising the press, radio, television and other communications media on questions relating to medicine.

The past year saw the retirement of Dr. Robert L. Craig as Editor and Executive Secretary. Dr. Craig had filled these posts with distinction since 1952. A well-deserved tribute to his skill as editor appeared in the Academy *Bulletin* in September, 1963. He produced a scientific journal of which we may all be proud. We regret his departure and wish him well. We are pleased to welcome to the Academy as his successor Dr. Paul F. Cranefield and pledge him our support for the future. Dr. Craig kindly provided me with a report on his tenure as Editor and I would like to quote part of that report here:

My more than eleven years on the staff of the Academy have been a most interesting experience—especially for one who regards himself primarily as a practitioner of medicine. To have become intimately acquainted with the workings of such an unique organization as The New York Academy of Medicine and to have had a small part in some of its functions, especially in editing its journal, has been a satisfying education. Although the Academy is a venerable institution, it has not remained static. On the contrary, it has grown with the years, it has adapted to new times and situations and is as vigorous now as at any time in its long history. It will continue to be so in the future as long as its Fellows are willing to contribute and devote their time, their energy and their varied abilities to the advancement of the science and art of Medicine.

THE COMMITTEE ON ADMISSION

The New York Academy of Medicine is legally and in every other sense a membership organization. The Fellows are the Academy; thus it is natural that the Committee on Admission should be the oldest

Standing Committee of the Academy and one with serious responsibilities. During 1963 the Committee functioned under the Chairmanship of Dr. Harry Altman. I have again been impressed by the time given to their task by the members of the committee and by the seriousness with which they undertake their duties. During the year, 100 new Fellows were admitted to the Academy.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE

Mr. Robert M. Brereton, Business Manager of the Academy, has continued his skillful surveillance of the Academy's budget and the Academy's physical plant. Among the major improvements to the Academy building during 1963 were the recovering of seats in Hosack Hall; capital replacements of library equipment and repair of the public address system in Hosack Hall. Mr. Brereton expects to make further essential repairs of the Academy building in 1964, and we are grateful to him for planning this work within the framework of current income.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Shepard Krech this committee has guided the Academy's investment program during the past year. We are fortunate indeed to have had predecessors who laid the foundations of our present sound financial position. However, it is wise to point out that increasing costs will make additional monies essential if the Academy is to maintain its present high standards and level of activity.

